REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2006, having a shortened statutory period set to expire July 20, 2006. The rejection of Claims 1-24 is traversed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 3 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lowell* (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,632 – "*Lowell*"). Rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Lowell is primarily directed to a method and system for monitoring activities on a website by a computer (*Lowell abstract*). Examples of such activities include "connect, disconnect, browse, accessing areas within a network site, uploading and/or downloading data, ordering products, participating in surveys, and participation in real-time and/or on-line events." (*Lowell*, col. 5, lines 7-10).

It is axiomatic that to support a rejection based on anticipation, the cited art must teach or suggest every element of the rejected claim. (*MPEP § 2131.*)

With regards to exemplary Claim 1, the cited art does not teach (expressly or implicitly) or suggest "providing a reward to said user in response to the user returning to the first web document from the second web document." Applicant does not dispute the Examiner's contention that *Lowell* teaches that a user may connect, disconnect, browse, or conduct any of the other activities described above. However, there is not teaching or suggestion that in order for a user to get a reward, that user must return to the original website. More specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion of "providing a reward to said user in response to the user returning to the first web document from the second web document." *Lowell* never describes a user going from a first website to a second website, and then back to the first website. Even if *Lowell* were to describe such a condition, there is no teaching or suggestion that the provision of a reward to the user is predicated on ("in response to") the user returning to the first website. As the cited art does not teach or suggest all of the claimed elements of the independent claims, Applicant

respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

With regards to exemplary Claim 2, the cited art does not teach or suggest "the reward is provided to the user only if the timer value is greater than the first threshold value and smaller than the second threshold value." As supported at paragraphs [0055] and [0056] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0120542 A1 (the present application), without the claimed feature, a user could go to a second website and back to the first website without ever reading the second website. Alternatively, the user may "camp out" on the second website, such that the first website loses his patronage. To prevent either condition, the user will get his reward through the first website only if he stays at the second website for a prescribed period of time (not too brief; not too long). Applicant does not dispute that *Lowell* teaches that an activity can be timestamped. However, this does not teach (expressly or implicitly) or suggest that a user must stay at the second website for a prescribed period of time ("the reward is provided to the user only if the timer value is greater than the first threshold value and smaller than the second threshold value"). As the cited art does not teach or suggest all of the claimed elements of the independent claims, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

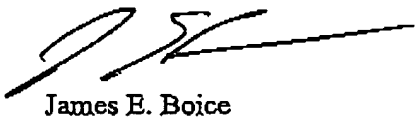
CONCLUSION

As the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the pending claims, Applicant now respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone to discuss the present application would be useful in promoting the pending claims to allowance, such a call to the Applicant's undersigned representative (512.617.5533) would be greatly appreciated.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0461.**

Respectfully submitted,



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